

PR/020/08

Wednesday 20 February, 2008.

Wheat meetings – understanding in uncertainty

The NSW Farmers' Association is urging all grain growers to attend meetings around the State next week, to inform Members and farmers about the Single Desk Marketing Scheme.

NSW Farmers' Association President Jock Laurie will chair the meetings, and says given the urgency for decisions about the upcoming harvest the Association is aiming to ensure people have all the information they need.

"Agriculture Minister Tony Burke has reiterated his intention of dismantling the wheat export monopoly by July 1, despite repeated calls from State government's and growers to postpone these changes until after the upcoming harvest," Mr Laurie said.

"With farmers already making their plans for the 2008 crop, which will be sown in less than 3 months, we need to ensure all growers in NSW are as informed as possible," he said.

"We have invited the Government to be involved in these meetings as we believe it provides an excellent chance for consultation and discussion about their plans.

Chairman of the Wheat Export Marketing Alliance, Graham Blight will also be at the meetings, which will be held in Young, Narrandera, Parkes and Narrabri.

"I really urge growers to attend. In this time of uncertainty, it's important that we all understand the position we are in as we head into harvest," Mr Laurie concluded.

<p style="text-align: center;">Young Meeting</p> <p>Date: Thursday 28 February, 2008 Time: 9 – 12 noon Location: Young Golf Club, William St Young</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Narrandera Meeting</p> <p>Date: Thursday 28 February, 2008 Time: 2 – 5pm Location: Narrandera Ex-servicemen's Club, 41 Bolton St, Narrandera</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Parkes Meeting</p> <p>Date: Friday 29 February, 2008 Time: 8:30 – 11:30 am Location: Parkes Services and Citizens Club, Short Street, Parkes</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Narrabri Meeting</p> <p>Date: Friday 29 February, 2008 Time: 3 -6pm Location: Narrabri Bowling Club, 176 Maitland st, Narrabri.</p>

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